

## BLOOD-COLLECTION DEVICE FOR NEWBORN BABIES AND INFANTS

A blood-collection device for newborn babies and infants, comprising a cannula provided with a blood inlet and outlet and mounted in a holder that has a grip part.

Such a device for collecting venous blood from newborn babies and/or premature babies and infants is known from DE 100 60 302 A1. The hollow needle and/or cannula, which at its distal end is provided with a sharpened tip, at the rear, proximal end has a transversely open blood outlet, and is provided in a holder, whose grip part is oriented behind the blood outlet and offers the option of touching and/or guiding the holder. When collecting blood, a vessel is held below the outlet opening of the cannula, in order to collect the out-flowing blood.

Unlike with conventional injection needles, the cannula of this blood-collecting device does not require special preparation, e.g. it no longer is necessary to break off the Luer cone, as is normally necessary, thus reducing the risk of infection for patients and reducing the risk of injury and infection for the person collecting blood. However, visual monitoring of the quantity of blood to be collected is very inadequate, because with

these small blood-collection devices, the grip and/or the finger of a person collecting blood considerably limits the view of the outlet opening and may even cover it. The transversely open outlet opening also results in the cannula only being able to ensure an optimal blood outlet in only one position of application. Apart from the fact that the production of an arcuate laterally angled cannula is costly, it also has the disadvantage that the higher flow resistance of the cannula impedes the flow of blood taken in a small quantity in any case, due to the bend in the cannula.

In view of the foregoing, it is the object of the present invention to create a blood-collecting device of this type with which the above-described disadvantages can be avoided and which improves the user-friendliness.

This object is achieved according to the invention by means of a bow-shaped bridging element connecting the grip part with the cannula holder. Consequently, several advantages can be achieved simultaneously. The outlet end of the cannula is easy to see in the open space of the bridging element. Losing part of the small quantity of blood collected due to impaired view will not happen. Since the inlet and outlet openings of the cannula are positioned on the same axis, there are no bends and branches and

there will be no loss due to friction, which could make the taking of blood from premature or newly born babies, infants or toddlers more difficult due to low blood pressure and low blood volume.

The bridging element also creates a free space that enables a relatively large collecting vessel to be placed underneath the outlet opening. The vessel ensures that even the smallest quantity of blood can be collected without loss. The free view of the outlet opening makes it possible to realize immediately when the first drop of blood flows. The handling of the inventive blood-collecting device is considerably simplified and safer, because the clear view of the cannula ensures its targeted insertion into the vein. Furthermore, especially when the blood-collecting device can be turned easily in the vein, in order to achieve an optimal blood inlet, and to prevent the ventricular wall from coming to rest on the angled opening and/or pointed section of the cannula, by which the opening is closed. In spite of the thus created option of rotation, the position of the outlet opening does not change, so that an optimal outflow of blood is guaranteed with any angular position. By contrast, a cannula with a bend and/or a branch only opens in one optimal position of use, in which the blood can flow out.

All other positions make the outflow of blood more difficult, and under certain circumstances, even impossible, for instance, if the outlet opening points upward.

Additional features and details of the invention are described in the claim and the following description of an embodiment of the invention as shown in the drawings. Therein:

FIG. 1 is a side view of a blood-collecting device; and

FIG. 2 is a top view of the blood-collecting device according to FIG. 1.

As shown in the figures, a blood-collecting device 1 comprises a hollow needle and/or cannula 3 provided in a holder 2 that has a front end provided with a sharpened tip 4 serving as a blood inlet for insertion into a vein, and at the opposite, proximal end a blood outlet 5. The blood outlet 5 is positioned in a large free space formed by a bow-shaped bridging element 6 that connects the cannula holder 2 with the grip part 7 of the blood-collecting device 1.

The connecting bridging element 6 enables a smooth rotation of the blood-collecting device with a cannula 3 inserted with its tip 4 into a vein, and offers to the operator a large clearly visible area with the option of using a large collecting

vessel, and being able to recognize immediately the first drop of flowing blood, so that the smallest quantity of blood can be collected without loss.